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Fair Play for Baltimore City

An Appeal to the Counties by the Mayor of Baltimore

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

"We declare that Baltimore City and the counties of the State should enjoy the largest measure of local self-government, and we pledge our representatives in the General Assembly to the enactment of such laws as will confer upon the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and the County Commissioners of the several counties jurisdiction in local matters now under the exclusive control of the Legislature." Democratic State Platform.

CITY ADMINISTRATION COMMENDED.

"We commend the conspicuously successful and progressive administration of the public affairs of Baltimore City by a city government Democratic in all its branches."—Democratic State Platform.

At the various Democratic Mass Meetings held in the different Maryland Counties, after eulogizing the Honorable Blair Lee, candidate for the United States Senate, the Honorable Emerson C. Harrington, candidate for Comptroller, and the Honorable C. C. Magruder, candidate for Clerk of the Court of Appeals, and appealing for a full vote for all candidates, State and Local, and promising that Baltimore City would contribute a handsome majority for the State candidates, Mayor Preston made the following appeal for fair play for Baltimore City:

WHY I COME TO THE PEOPLE.

The planks of the State platform above quoted justify the appeal I am making to the people of the counties.

You hear a good deal about the prejudice of the people in the counties against the city. Some have said that there is no use in laying the claims of the city before the county people. I think better of you. I believe you want what is fair, and that you are willing to give the city what is fair; that you want the State government, which is agent of all the people, and therefore your agent, to treat your county and every other county fairly, and also to treat the city fairly; that you are willing to hear the facts, and if the facts show that the State government has not been giving the city fair treatment, to see the injustice corrected.

Believing that you are fair-minded enough to listen to our complaints, and if convinced, just enough to uphold the city's plea for justice, I put the simple facts before you:

WHAT THE CITY CONTRIBUTES TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

1. The city contributes regularly about half of the Democratic majority of the State.
2. It contributes much more than half of the revenues of the State Government.

Of a total revenue from the whole State of $3,660,608.62, the city contributes 63 per cent. and all the State outside, 37 per cent.

REPRESENTATION IN STATE GOVERNMENT.

With nearly half the population of the State, the city has, of the Court of Appeals, ONE judge; the counties have SEVEN.

The counties also have
Both United States Senators.
The Governor.
The Secretary of State.
The Comptroller.
The State Treasurer.
The Clerk of the Court of Appeals.
Two members of the Public Service Commission.
State Insurance Commissioner.
State Auditor.
State Bank Examiner.
Every member of the State Roads Commission.
The Labor Statistician.
All the members of the Board of Public Works.
State Fire Marshal.
State Game Warden.
The State Fisheries Force;
and practically all the minor positions.

So that, while the city contributes 50 per cent. of the votes and population and 63 per cent. of the taxes, it gets back in money 25 per cent. and in representation in the Government less than 20 per cent.

If the city had 60 per cent. of the wealth of the State it ought to contribute 60 per cent. of the taxes; but the fact is that the city has less than one-half the wealth of the State because a vast number of men of large fortunes who do business and make their money in the city live in and are paying taxes in one of the counties, principally Baltimore County.

The State also collects indirect taxes in Baltimore City which it does not collect from the counties, and, for direct taxes, property in Baltimore City is assessed at its full value, while in the counties, on an average, it is assessed for not more than one-half its value. Thus, a man owning real estate in Baltimore City worth $10,000 is assessed for $10,000, and at the present State rate of 31 cents pays $31.00 State taxes; while a man in the county owning real estate worth $10,000 is assessed, on the average, at not more than $5,000 and pays $15.50 State taxes. So that the city contributes more in proportion to its wealth, and to deny the city representation in the government, and a share in the benefits flowing from government, *in proportion to population* is taxation without representation, and a denial of the fundamental principle of the Declaration of Independence that "All men are created equal."

Every citizen of Baltimore City is denied equal rights, is denied justice, when he is taxed by a government in which the vote of every citizen in the counties counts four times as much as the vote of a citizen in the city.

SMALL NUMBER IN LEGISLATURE.

On the subject of additional representation of Baltimore in the Legislature, I beg to put before the people of the State the following figures:

In the House of Delegates there are 101 members, of which Baltimore has twenty-four, or only about one-fourth. In the Senate there are twenty-seven members, of which Baltimore has but four, and this small representation notwithstanding the fact that Baltimore has one-half the population, one-half of the wealth, and pays 63 per cent. of the taxes for the support of the State Government. Is not our appeal to the people of the State, therefore, based upon justice and right, and will our brothers of the State and counties deny it?

A similar situation exists in the representation of Baltimore City in the State Convention, with the result that when it comes to voting for State officers, Baltimore City gets nothing. Not only is legislation directed against Baltimore City by this overwhelming legislative majority; but all the offices of the State are absorbed by the counties.

IS ALL THE ABOVE FAIR TREATMENT?

I ask my brothers in the counties is this fair treatment? In order to change representation in the Legislature a constitutional amendment is necessary. But in order to give Baltimore City fair play by the adoption of the Borough Plan; by the exemption of the City Stock from taxation; and by allowing the city all the high license money; and by giving her local self-government in the appointment of Police Commissioners and a Liquor License Board, does not require a constitutional amendment, but only fair play by the Legislature; and for that fair play I am making my appeal to the people of the State, so that they may impress upon their representatives in the Legislature the justice of the claim of the city for fair play at the hands of the counties.

THE BOROUGH BILL.

Baltimore City is the most congested city in the Union. Our 585,000 population by the census, probably now 650,000, is cooped up in a territory of 30 square miles. Cleveland, which in the last census passed Baltimore in the list of large cities, has 46 square miles; Pittsburg, 44; Buffalo, 42; San Francisco, 46; New Orleans, 42; Boston, 40, and St. Louis, 61.

In this connection I want to emphasize one particular point. Please understand that the Borough Bill does not, of itself, take an inch of territory from either Baltimore or Anne Arundel County. The Borough Bill, of its own power, does not force annexation. The purpose of the bill is simple. It merely gives to the people residing within each of the four proposed boroughs the right to say for themselves whether they desire to enter into the borough arrangement or to remain under the respective County Governments as at present. The residents of each borough will vote separately.

PEOPLE OF EACH BOROUGH TO DECIDE.

If the people themselves vote to become a borough, their decision settles the matter. This is the very essence of the home rule idea. This is the very essence of Democratic principles. The Democratic party believes in letting the people themselves fix the form of Government under which they shall live. This is all that this borough bill asks. It simply requests the Legislature to give to the people in each suggested borough the opportunity to say for themselves whether they desire to become a borough of Greater Baltimore, or whether they prefer to remain as they are. Could any proposition be fairer?

WHY THE PEOPLE WILL APPROVE.

I believe that the fair-minded people in the boroughs—not the lawless element, but the good citizens—will, when they consider the questions involved, desire to become a part of Baltimore City and will vote for admission to the city as one of the boroughs. They will do so in the interest of an orderly administration of justice; in order that Baltimore City's health regulations may be applicable to the boroughs; in order that Baltimore City's sewers may be used by the boroughs; in order that we may guarantee a quiet, orderly Sabbath throughout our nearby environs and suppress disorder and rowdyism in the negro dives surrounding the city, which dives at present jeopardize not only the citizens of the present City of Baltimore but also the citizens in the boroughs; in order that we may properly and systematically project the streets, in accordance with the theory that city planning is absolutely dependent on some city control over the projection of its streets in the proposed borough districts.

There is another convincing reason why they will support the idea. Important as Highlandtown and Canton are and as important as Roland Park is, the borough proposed to be annexed south of the city stands out as of special importance. The inner harbor is now congested with bay and coast trade. Spring Gardens is the natural place for development. If Baltimore is to grow, the next fifty years will see Spring Gardens crowded with commerce and shipping. It is most important that this section of the harbor be controlled by the municipality. At present we have no control over it. The north side only is owned by Baltimore City. The south and west sides are controlled by Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties. Each of these shore lines now are enormously growing communities. They are owned, to a large degree, by Baltimore people and by Baltimore capital; and yet they are under control of Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties.

The future of Baltimore, as a shipping point, in my judgment, depends upon the control by the municipality of the deep water shipping facilities at Spring Gardens on the northern shores of Anne Arundel County and on the adjoining shores of Baltimore County.

It will be a source of gratification to the people of the counties, as well as to the people of Baltimore, to have Baltimore City take her proper place among the great cities of the world, especially as she is the chief city of the South, and will be, we hope and believe, the chief emporium for the increased South American trade that is to follow the opening of the Panama Canal.

GRASTY, THE BREEDER OF DISCORD.

LET ME SAY TO YOU THAT ANY MAN OR NEWSPAPER WHO ATTEMPTS TO POISON THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE OF ONE SECTION AGAINST ANY OTHER SECTION IS THE ENEMY OF BOTH.

In every city department improvement and progress, economy and efficiency are the order of the day, notwithstanding the malicious statements that you may see to the contrary in the Baltimore Sun. This great newspaper, once owned and conducted by a distinguished Maryland family, is now controlled by Charles H. Grasty, who left an unsavory reputation in the West to come to Baltimore as the editor of the Baltimore News. In his career in the control of The News for twenty years he opposed the Democracy, National, State and city, in almost every campaign. No words were too foul for him to use in villification of the late Senator Gorman, and of Governor Smith, and of Governor Warfield and Governor Crothers when they were candidates before the people. No word was too bitter to be used in his denunciation of the Wilson law which was framed for the protection of the people of Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore. He has always fought the county people on the oyster question.

He spent his time then largely in trying to array the city against Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore, and is now engaged by every artful device and misrepresentation in trying to array the counties against the city. He is an enemy of both counties and city, and his sole purpose is to try to raise himself to a position of leadership by pulling down the present Democratic leaders who stand in his way. I warn you against his misrepresentations.

TAXING PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

We ask for the repeal of the State Tax on Baltimore City stock, which amounted in 1912 to $68,781.82; in 1913 to over $96,000.00, and will increase as the city's debt increases. The State receives taxes on all the property, real and personal, in the city, assessed at full value; it ought not to tax the city's debts.

The following county loans are exempt from State taxation, by law:

Carroll County Loan; Acts 1900, ch. 242. Hyattsville Loan; Acts 1900, ch. 216. Dorchester County Loan; Acts 1902, ch. 206. La Plata Loan; Acts 1902, ch. 629. Charles County Loan; Acts 1902, ch. 44. Montgomery County Loan; Acts 1904, ch. 641. Rockville Loan; Acts, ch. 228. Wicomico County Loan; Acts 1904, ch. 100. Garrett County Loan; Acts 1906, ch. 788. Salisbury Loan; Acts 1908, ch. 466½. Easton Loan; Acts 1910, ch. 117. Dorchester County Loan; Acts 1910, ch. 545. La Plata Loan; Acts 1912, ch. 770. Easton Loan; Acts 1912, ch. 747. Pocomoke City Loan; Acts 1912, ch. 164.

And the Comptroller's report shows that nothing is collected from those not exempt except from Baltimore City. They ought all to be exempt and the State Tax Commission in their recent report to the Governor so recommends.

FAIR REPRESENTATION.

We are going to ask you for a fair representation in the Legislature.

We are going to appeal, also, to your fair-mindedness and to the fair-mindedness of the Democrats of the State to give Baltimore City a fair representation in the executive and judicial branches of the State Government.

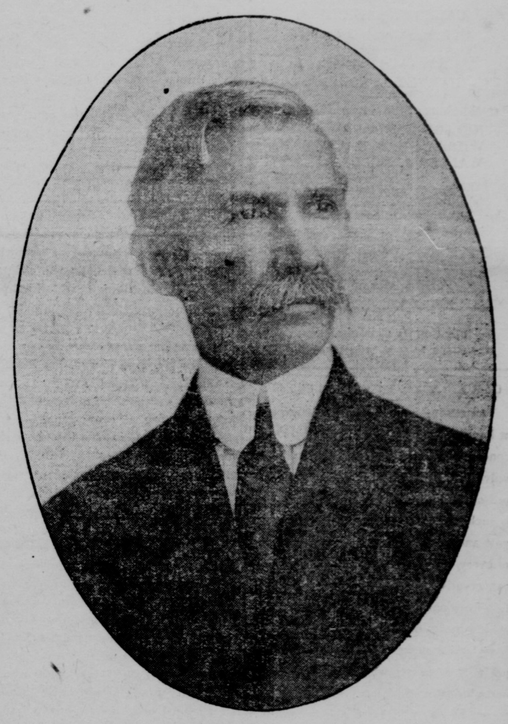
There is also another matter upon which I desire to appeal to you and upon which I wish to dwell for a moment.

A recent amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides that the United States Senators shall be elected by a direct vote of the people; therefore, in the selection of the United States Senators, every voter in the State—white and black—has an equal voice, and I ask you if the spirit of that amendment does not require that, in the nomination of a candidate for the United States Senate by the Democratic party, every Democrat in the State should have an equal voice. Will you deny to the white Democrats of Baltimore City the right to have an equal vote in the choice of the Democratic nominee for the United States Senate with the Democrats in Kent County, or Wicomico, or Allegany, or any other county, when, in the general election, every voter in the State—white and black—is obliged to have an equal voice? It is a violation of the spirit of the amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide a method of nominating a United States Senator by which a Democrat in the counties shall have two, or three, or four votes, while a Democrat in Baltimore City shall only have one.

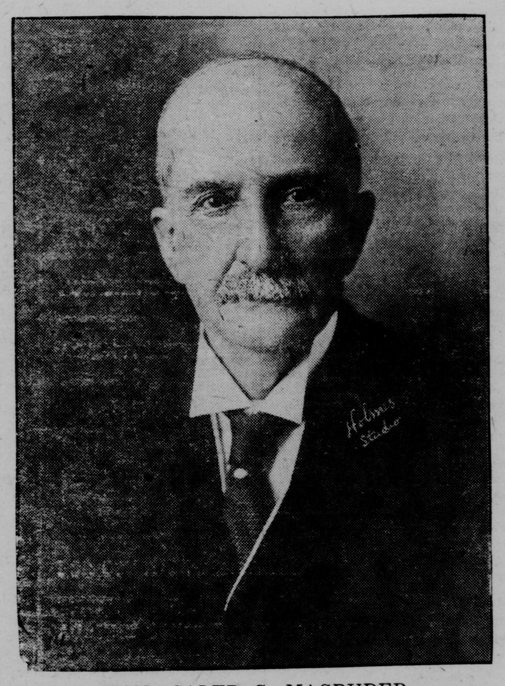
JAMES H. PRESTON,
MAYOR OF BALTIMORE.

MARYLAND DEMOCRACY'S STRONG CANDIDATES

HON. BLAIR LEE



HON. EMERSON C. HARRINGTON



HON. CALEB C. MAGRUDER

The Colonel's Pride

How the Army Regulations Were Adhered to and a Genius Secured For the Band

By ARTHUR TOWNSEND

"Do you play on any musical instrument?"

"No."

"Have no musical taste?"

"I don't know. I was born and have lived all my life in the heart of a forest, where no musical sound except the singing of the birds has ever reached my ears. But that I have always dearly loved. Why do you ask these questions?"

"Because if you could play upon the cornet or the flageolet or the trombone you might be permitted to live. As it is, your sentence will be carried out. What a pity that you have not some foundation for a musical training! I could in a few days coach you so that you might save yourself from being shot."

When the Spanish war broke out the news of it reached the wilderness in which I lived. Here was a chance to get out of the woods and into the world. I would enlist for a soldier. I would need no money. The government would clothe, feed and transport me, and all that would be required of me would be to be shot. And if those who shot at me missed me and continued to miss me till the war was over I would be taken care of till the next war, and if I lived through all the wars till I became an old man I would be laid on the shelf, but would be still taken care of.

This was the explanation given me by the recruiting officer, whom I found after a walk of sixty miles. Not caring to walk back again and remain out of the world I accepted the conditions to remain in the world till some enemy fired a shot that would give the government the best of the bargain. I was put into an infantry regiment and an effort was made to knock some of the "green" out of me and turn me into a soldier. But the effort failed. I could not be disciplined and within a week after having been landed in Cuba I struck my captain, was tried for mutiny and sentenced to be shot.

There are two extremes in war. When an army is not in action there is enough red tape used to girdle the world, but when the real work begins there isn't any red tape at all. In the mixup that occurred after our landing, while many a good soldier lay dying on the battlefield, I, a mutineer, ill with malarial fever, was turned into the house of a Cuban farmer and was attended by his daughter, one of those dark haired, olive complexioned, long eyelashed daughters of equatorial regions who can't look at a man without falling in love with him.

It has required three times the talk to tell all these commonplace facts as the beginning of my story. It was Inez Gonzales, the farmer's daughter and my nurse, who regretted my want of musical training with which I might have saved my life by blowing a horn.

"A regiment encamped yesterday," she went on, "in a field across the road, and two of the men supped here this evening. One of them said that his cornet and his flageolet had been killed and his trombone was groaning under a bad wound. The colonel was very proud of the regimental band, and just as soon as the routine of army life recommenced he would notice that the music was not up to the mark and there would be the mischief to pay. The other suggested that musicians be obtained from the prisoners who had been captured from the enemy. The first man answered that he hadn't thought of it; he would try. If you were a musician he might put you into the band."

Here was a chance for life—a ghost of a chance, but still a chance. The only indication that I had enough music in me to avail myself of the opportunity was that I had loved the songs of birds. I asked Inez to go to the camp, find the bandmaster and tell him there was a man in her home who could play on any instrument; that he was ill, but convalescent, and with a couple of weeks' practice would be able to take his place in a band.

Inez told the story, and the bandmaster came over to see me. When I told him I was under sentence to be shot he was a bit discouraged, but said that if I was a first class cornet player he thought the colonel would have enough influence to get a commutation or something that would save my breath for the band. He went away and came back to say that he had seen the colonel and secured an order delaying my execution till it could be discovered whether I was a valuable musician. If so some way of defeating justice would be found by which I could be utilized. The colonel's pride in the band was such that he would shoot a dummy in my stead if necessary, only the army regulations must be faithfully adhered to. But my abilities must be tested before any change in the army situation should take place.

So there I was, not knowing a note of music, sick in bed and required to make a musician of myself immediately, for army situations are not lasting, and the present one was liable to be changed at any moment. I got busy at once, with my life the spur to drive me on. Inez, having taken a few lessons on the piano, had the wherewithal for a beginning. But there was no time to put on an instrument so unlike the one I was required to play, and Inez borrowed a flute. On this I made a beginning. It was better for the purpose than a cornet since it made less noise, and the bandmaster across the road couldn't hear me practicing.

Written music bothered me, but I made wonderful progress, playing whatever came into my head. I could not read music—at least could not learn to do so quickly enough for the purpose—but I could improvise, and what astonished Inez was that I could not only "make up" airs, but could play them with remarkable fervor.

All this developed within a few days, at the end of which time the bandmaster sent to learn if I was well enough to play for him. I replied that I would be very soon, but since I had not touched a musical instrument since the war began I would like to have him send me one on which I might get a little practice before submitting to a test. He sent me a cornet.

Fearing that he would hear my first efforts and learn of my ignorance of the art to which I pretended, I asked Inez to stuff the cracks in the windows of the room in which I lay, and I began my efforts under the bed. I made what headway I could in this disadvantageous way and in two days began to play on the bed instead of under it. Whether I was heard by the bandmaster or not I don't know, but if I was no word about it came to me. But so fearful was I of betraying my want of knowledge of the cornet that I dare not blow a full blast.

Every day I feared some change that would cut short my preparation, and it was carried on under the fear that at any moment the army law might be permitted to take its course. I was haunted by the expectation of being marched out at any moment, stood up before a file of soldiers and shot. So lugubrious were my feelings that my playing would have been much better fitted for a funeral march than the popular airs of the day.

One morning the bandmaster came to see me and told me that a candidate for cornet player in the band had appeared in the personage of a soldier in the ranks and, since he must have a man to fill the post as soon as possible, unless I was ready to stand a test he would have the other man transferred to the band. I begged him to wait a few days that I might get more strength, but he said the colonel was liable at any time to notice the deteriorated condition of the band and if he did it would be impossible to tell what he would do. This frightened me, and I consented to stand trial.

The next afternoon he brought a man to the house where I was lying. Inez saw them coming with a cornet and, pale as death, ran in to tell me. I was desperate. If I submitted to a trial of skill between myself and one who was familiar with the instrument I would doubtless show my inability as a cornet player; if I refused to submit the man would be appointed in my place and I would be shot.

"Let them come," I exclaimed. "I will blow a blast that will awaken the dead."

I knew that my room was no place for a test on a cornet and asked Inez to hand me my clothes. When the bandmaster arrived I was dressing and sent word to him that I would be out in a few minutes. Having finished my toilet, I muttered a prayer and staggered out on to a porch, where I dropped into a chair. The bandmaster told me and my rival that he would take into the band the better player of the two, and since I was weak and the other fellow was strong he would give me the advantage of playing after him.

My rival took the cornet carelessly. It did not appear that he was anxious to get into the band, and he did not make a special effort. He did not need to do so to beat me, though he did not know it. He played a selection from the overture to "Zampa," a favorite piece for cornet players to show their skill. He rendered it very well, and I could not have played it at all.

One of the few simple airs I had learned was "Home, Sweet Home." Taking the cornet from the bandmaster, I told him that I was not strong enough to give him anything displaying technique; I could only produce melody. I fixed my mind on the cabin where I knew my dear mother was daily thinking of me and on the scene of my expected execution. There were but few notes, but each note was expressive of my depth of feeling. Persons who were passing stopped to listen. I played the air through once, and all were absorbed. I played it a second time, and their eyes were wet. The third time every one within hearing was weeping.

"That's enough," said the bandmaster; "you're my man."

"Hold," I said; "the secret must come out in time! I can't play a note. I have simply learned this in the vain hope of saving my life."

"I don't care if you can't play the scale; there's more music in you than in my whole band. I'll make a musician of you, and when I do you'll be a wonder."

Inez's tears gushed afresh, and she clasped me in her arms.

My execution was got round in this way. A requisition was made on the quartermaster for a coffin. It was indorsed, "No coffin in my possession." The requisition having been referred to the colonel, he issued a special order that I was to be released from arrest till a coffin could be procured in which to bury me. The coffin was never procured, and I have never been buried. The army regulations were adhered to, and I have become a great musician. Inez is my wife.

Marks of Social Distinction.

"The Hugginses," said Sherlock Holmes, "are very popular with the wealthy classes."

"How do you know?" I queried, confident of a brilliant answer.

"Because there are so many grease spots on the pavement in front of their house."

"I don't see the point," said I.

"You auto," said Sherlock.—Newark News.

Even In That Day.

From Bee's dictionary, published in 1825:

"Shopping—Among women, going about from shop to shop, buying little articles perhaps, perhaps not, but always pulling about great quantities of goods."—Boston Transcript.

Cautious.

Mrs. Peck—Mr. Highflier never takes his wife out in his automobile. Peck—I guess he doesn't care to have two unmanageable things on his hands at one time.—Boston Transcript.

While you are dreaming of the future act in the present.